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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Austria	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Statement by Soviet Officer Indicating DATE DISTR. Plans for Soviet Withdrawal from Austria		23 December 1953
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BY CABLE

- On 19 December 1953, Lt. Col. Aleksandr Arsenyevich Smirnov, deputy commander of the Soviet communications unit at Ebreichsdorf, Lower Austria, stated that the Soviets would be out of Austria by May or June 1954. He added that the expected arrival of dependents of Soviet officers would not affect Soviet plans for a withdrawal from Austria.
- Smirnov's unit reports to Major General Kochetkov (fnu), reportedly chief of the intelligence directorate of the Central Group of Forces.

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Comment: It is not clear whether Smirnov could have advance knowledge of Soviet plans through his official duties.

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